

St. Austell

ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR

1957



J. G. S. TURNER
Medical Officer of Health

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ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1957

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To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of
St. Austell

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the
Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the
District for the year 1957.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr.
Watts and his staff, and to Mr. King and Mr. Mules, to all of whom
I am indebted for parts of this report.

I wish to thank also the Members
of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and
support.

I have the honour to be, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. S. TURNER

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	18,379
Population	...	...	...	...	23,540
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	8,250
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£228,651
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£897

Rate per 1,000 Population

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	Male	Female	Total	St.Austell	England and Wales
Legitimate	153	145	305	12.94	
Illegitimate	1	6			

For comparison with other areas rate
corrected for age and sex distribution 14.1 16.1

Rate per 1,000 Total Births and Stillbirths

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	7	7	14	43.9	22.4
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

Rate per 1,000 Population

<u>DEATHS</u>	158	145	303	12.87	
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For comparison with other areas rate
corrected for age & sex distribution. 10.82 11.5

Rate per 1,000 total Births

<u>MATERNAL DEATHS</u>	-	-	-	0	0.47
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Rate per 1,000 Live Births

INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year of age)

Legitimate	4	3	7	22.9	23.0
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following is an abbreviated list of the causes of death of persons of all ages :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis-respiratory	0	2	2
2. Tuberculosis-other	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective & Parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	7	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1	6
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
14. Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	12	15	27
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	0	1
16. Diabetes	0	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	27	47
18. Coronary disease, angina	35	12	47
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
20. Other heart disease	31	33	64
21. Other circulatory disease	2	4	6
22. Influenza	2	5	7
23. Pneumonia	3	2	5
24. Bronchitis	4	1	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0	2
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	2	4
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	2	4	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	7	0	7
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	1	0	1
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	19	17	36
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
34. All other accidents	2	4	6
35. Suicide	1	0	1
36. Homicide & operations of war	0	0	0
All causes	158	145	303

The following short table gives the percentage of distribution of deaths in various age groups.

<u>Age Group at death</u>	<u>Percentage dying in each age group</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
0-1 yr	2.5	2.0
1-59 yrs	16.6	11.5
60-69 yrs	24.2.	21.9
70-79 yrs	31.8	28.1
80-89 yrs	21.7	28.1
90-99 yrs	3.2	6.8
100 +	0.0	1.4

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER
ONE YEAR OF AGE

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Ages in weeks</u>						
	<u>-1</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-3</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>-5</u>	<u>-52</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bronchopneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
Congenital Heart	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

It is usual to regard the deaths of children under the age of 1 week and stillbirths to be of similar causation and to call these Perinatal deaths. Over the past five years the average for the district has been 54 per 1,000 total births compared with a rate for Cornwall of 43 and for the United Kingdom of 37.

The major improvement in the last twenty years has been in saving infant lives over the age of one week. The challenge is now to reduce this perinatal mortality and this is proving difficult to do. The requirements are a high standard of medical & nursing care with good co-operation from the mother, a good diet, good housing and efficient health education services.

SECTION A

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA - (In acres) 18,379.

The district is mixed Urban and Rural, the main aggregations of population being in St. Austell town, Par, St. Blazey and Mevagissey. Par and Charlestown are ports dealing with the china clay trade, while Mevagissey deals with the fishing trade. The whole area is popular as a seaside resort and the population is greatly increased during the summer months.

POPULATION - 23,540.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

According to the Rate Book, the number of inhabited houses in the district was 8,250, the rateable value being £228,651 which gives £897 for penny rate.

CLIMATE

Although the average rainfall was below the normal for the past 20 years, the summer was wetter than usual due to intermittent rain falling over extended periods.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>RAINFALL 1957</u>	<u>MONTHLY AVERAGE FOR LAST 20 YEARS</u>
January	3.82	5.56
February	5.94	4.09
March	5.66	3.61
April	0.51	2.84
May	3.28	3.57
June	4.16	2.61
July	3.09	3.07
August	4.45	3.88
September	4.04	4.06
October	3.43	4.06
November	3.32	5.84
December	3.62	6.04
Total	45.32	50.25
Monthly Average	3.77	4.18
No. of wet days	202	178

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SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. Medical Officer of Health

J. G. S. Turner, M.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

2. Senior Sanitary Inspector

C. H. Watts, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food
Inspector.

3. Additional Sanitary Inspectors

L. H. Sturtridge, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

J. T. Rostern, C.R.S.I.

LABORATORY FACILITIES -

These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary where all material for investigation is sent.

PROPHYLACTICS -

Supplies of diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus prophylactics are available in various combinations. Polio-myelitis vaccine became available in limited amounts but its use was confined at first to County Medical Staff. Supplies are now available to Medical Practitioners at the Area Health Office, St. Austell, on request.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

There is a main centre in St. Austell, with an establishment of three ambulances and three utilicons. In addition St. John's Ambulance Brigade maintains ambulances at St. Blazey and at Fowey, and the Red Cross Society one at St. Dennis. The voluntary societies ambulances are available at nights and at weekends and in emergencies. The work of the service for the whole of No. IV area in 1957 is summarised as follows :-

	<u>Patients Carried</u>	<u>Miles Run</u>
County Ambulances	3,189	47,654
Voluntary Ambulances	853	31,819
Utilicons (sitting cases)	12,055	97,200
Hospital Car Service	5,890	58,365

Thanks are due to the Commandant, Officers and Members of the St. Dennis British Red Cross Society and to the Superintendent, Officers and Members of the St. Blazey and Fowey Divisions of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade for continued co-operation and assistance. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Batchelor, Organiser of the Hospital Car Service and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provide transport on request.

NURSING AND OTHER SERVICES IN THE HOME

These have worked well in spite of staff shortage. The establishment was as follows :-

	District Nurse Midwife Health Visitor	Health Visitor (Full-time)	General Nurse & Midwife	Total
Mevagissey	1	-	-	1
St. Blazey & Tywardreath	3	-	-	3
St. Austell & Treverbyn	2	3	3	8

All nurses as circumstances permit are sent for further training or for practical post-certificate courses.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Approximately 60% of all births occur at home and provided the home conditions are good and that difficulties are unlikely to arise, this is the best place.

CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Children and old people discharged from hospital are followed up until fit.

ANTE AND POST-NATAL CARE

An ante-natal clinic was held weekly at Moorland Road by a Specialist Obstetrician. In addition a weekly clinic was held by Midwives. Relaxation classes have been established at Par and in St. Austell. A mother's club has been established in St. Austell and has very successful meetings.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE

Clinics are held fortnightly at St. Austell and at Par. The attendances averaged 25.0 and 28.4 respectively. Emphasis is placed on health education.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

A total of 71 persons were helped of whom 5 were maternity cases. Many of the cases helped are old people who, without help, would be unable to stay in their own homes.

CARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The Old Peoples Welfare Association have a group working in St. Austell whose aim is to give help and advice to those who need it. The response has not been all that was expected but continued efforts are being made and new ways sought to provide this help. A Rest Room has been provided in the town for older people who need to pause at times during shopping expeditions. This room is open twice weekly. A chiropody service is also available to those who cannot afford to pay from slender means. Those who use this service are expected to pay according to their means.

HOSPITALS

The only hospital in the area is the St. Austell and District Hospital which deals with general medical and surgical cases. Cases requiring further examination and special treatment are sent to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. Maternity cases go to Redruth and infectious diseases requiring isolation or special treatment are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Truro. A few of the more infective cases of Tuberculosis are sent to Tehidy but accommodation is very limited.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

(a) Clinics held at Moorland Road are as follows :-

Ante-Natal & Gynaecology	Every Monday
Orthopaedic	Every Tuesday
Child Welfare	First, third & fifth Wednesday each month
Speech Therapy	Every Wednesday
E. N. T.	As required
Dental	Daily
Child Guidance	Second & fourth Wednesday each month.
Pyschiatric	Tuesday afternoons
Family Planning	Fourth Friday evening & Second Monday afternoon

(b) Clinics held at the Hospital :-

General Medical & Surgical	Daily
Orthopaedic	Monday-fore-noon
Venereal Diseases	Tuesday afternoon
Tuberculosis	Monday afternoon
Skin Clinic	Thursday mornings

SECTION C

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

Consumer demands for water were adequately met in all parts of the district.

Bacteriological examinations have been made regularly on both the raw and treated water from all sources. Traces of contamination have been found at one or two sources but not on the distributing system, indicating that methods of chlorination are satisfactory.

The water supply in the district is soft and the high silica content provides a natural check on plumbo-solvency. Lead pipes are not used on drinking supplies, plastic or copper tubing being the standard materials used throughout the district.

Approximately 97% of the houses in the district have a piped supply and most have water indoors. During the year new mains were laid at Porthpean Road, Truro Road, Tregiskey, Penwithick & Landreath Place.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There have been extensive changes to the sewerage system at Par and St. Blazey where the second stage of the scheme has been completed.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection has been carried out as required and a total of 10 rooms were disinfected during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

This service was well maintained throughout the year. The work was done as follows :-

(a) Private Dwellings

497 weekly treatments were carried out free of charge to the householder. 50% of the cost is recovered from the Ministry.

(b) Business Premises

156 weekly treatments were carried out and the cost charged to the firms concerned. Most occupiers of these premises have agreements with the Local Authority for regular treatments.

(c) Sewers

The twice yearly treatments were carried out in April and September & the Sowers were found to be in a very satisfactory condition. These treatments were administered under the "Block Control" system as advised by the Ministry's Pest Officer in the interests of economy.

(d) Refuse Disposal Works

These were regularly surveyed and treatments carried out as required.

(e) Farm Premises

Survey work on farm lands was continued during the year. It was found that quite a number of farmers have baiting agreements with the County Agricultural Committee to rid their land of rats. Weekly treatments were carried out under arrangements with the occupiers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This activity is under the supervision of the Surveyor. A weekly refuse collection is in operation throughout the Urban District but in certain very congested areas in Mevagissey, where there is no storage accommodation, collections are made thrice weekly. Refuse is disposed of at tips at Mevagissey, Sawles Road and Par.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Urban area is moderately well served with conveniences which are supervised by the Surveyor's staff. A twice daily cleansing service is maintained in the town area and at Par and Mevagissey during the summer months.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Details of applicants are as follows :-

Number without separate houses (including numerous cases of overcrowding)	830
Number of families with separate homes	
(a) Living in unfit houses	240
(b) Living in overcrowded houses	250
	<u>1,320</u>

Applications from young people without separate homes heavily outweigh all other applications and overcrowding through the occupation of reasonably fit houses by two or more families is a major problem.

Types required are as follows :-

1 Bedroom Type	50
2 Bedroom Type	1,020
3 Bedroom Type	250

It is again emphasized that the housing shortage in the area is even greater than reflected in the Council's waiting list as owing to the rise in the cost of new houses and the consequential high rentals, many people prefer to remain in unsatisfactory cottages where, however, the rent is controlled and indeed in many instances abnormally low.

The Council owns 1,673 houses and development is still proceeding.

Details of house construction in the area during 1957 are as follows :-

Dwellings erected by the Council	44
Dwellings erected by Private Enterprise	45

52 houses are in the course of construction by the Council and 29 by Private Enterprise.

SECTION D (contd)

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE

During the year some further progress was made in carrying out the Council's Slum Clearance programme from the second years programme (i.e. September, 1956 to September, 1957) no houses were demolished while during the year some 28 families were rehoused from properties scheduled for Slum Clearance.

Steps were taken in the latter part of the year to proceed with the third years programme with the result that 5 houses were demolished in the Autumn.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the demolition of 36 houses contained in 6 Clearance Areas, but 8 houses contained in the Tregoney Hill Clearance Area, the Ministry directed to be treated as individual unfit dwellings as being contained in one building.

On the 31st July, 1957, a Ministry of Local Government and Housing Public Inquiry was held relative to a Clearance Area containing 14 houses in the West Ward - 12 of these houses being subsequently confirmed for demolition.

It is hoped that more rapid progress will be made in the year 1958 to complete the third year slum clearance programme and also to implement the Clearance Orders confirmed by the Ministry during the year under review as well as those Clearance Orders still outstanding of pre-war date. Slum Clearance I feel still demands urgent attention.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

Throughout the year constant supervision was given to the retail distribution of milk within the Urban area.

Routine sampling from distributors premises and delivery vehicles was maintained by your Inspectoral Staff. All samples were submitted to the cleanliness tests at the County Pathological Department, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. These tests showed that cleanliness & purity continued to be maintained at a high standard.

MEAT

The daily meat inspection services continued throughout the year at the licenced private slaughterhouses, by your qualified inspectors who found it necessary to have to work late evenings and on Sundays in order to cope with this work.

A large percentage of the animals slaughtered was for export to other towns and the London market.

As in previous years it is pleasing to note that the butchers in the Urban area are still eager to deal in the best grades of meat to supply to the consumers. Consequently the percentage of condemnations of unsound meat during the year was low.

The following table summarises the results of meat inspection :-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,924	144	63	4,766	13,972
Number inspected	1,924	144	63	4,766	13,972
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u> whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	10	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	179	-	-	5	37
Percentage of number insp. affected with disease other than T.B.	15.4%	-	-	.3%	.3%
<u>T.B. only</u> Whole carcase condemned	2	-	-	-	2
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	47	-	-	-	108
Percentage of number insp. affected with T.B	2.3%	-	-	-	.7%

There were no cases of Cysticercus Bovis in the animals inspected during the year.

SECTION E (contd)

OTHER FOODS

Visits to premises used for storage, preparation and manufacture of foodstuffs was maintained throughout the year including the inspection of food catering establishments, due regard being paid to restaurant kitchens.

It is to be noted that in January of the year under review one of the oldest wellknown restaurants in the town of St. Austell, with its congested and badly arranged kitchen accommodation ill sited on the first floor, closed down.

Details of unfit food dealt with are enumerated in the Public health Inspectors Report appended hereto.

ICE-CREAM

Premises at which Ice-cream is manufactured and retailed received continued attention by the Health Inspectors during the year. Collection of samples was maintained during the season and these were submitted to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test at the Pathological Department, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Testing and Advisory Scheme.

The results of these tests are shown below :-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Hot Mix</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	22	22
2	12	12
3	2	2
4	-	-

SECTION F

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received :-

Disease	Number of Cases	Rate per 1,000 population		
		St. Austell Urban Dist.		England & Wales 1957
		1956	1957	
Scarlet Fever	2	0.08	0.08	0.66
Whooping Cough	20	1.87	0.85	1.89
Measles	168	10.0	7.13	14.06
Pneumonia	2	0.13	0.08	0.73
Poliomyelitis				
(a) Paralytic	1	0.04	0.04	0.07
(b) Non-paralytic	1	-	0.04	0.04
Food Poisoning	3	0.13	0.13	0.23
Dysentery	1	-	0.04	0.64
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	0.04	0.02

It proved to be impossible to trace the source of the two cases of poliomyelitis. In addition to the two reported cases which occurred in Mevagissey there were at least four other children who might have been cases. All lived in or near Mevagissey

The cases of food poisoning which occurred in visitors were due to contaminated cooked meat which had not been properly cooled. Each year there are many similar cases not reported as food poisoning.

The measles outbreak which was at its peak towards the end of 1956 continued up to March of 1957.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following table gives the immune state of the child population i.e. the number at 31st December, 1957 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. At any time since January 1st, 1942.)

Age at 31.12.57 i.e. Born in the year	Under 1 1957	1-4 1956-53	5-9 1952-48	10-14 1947-43.	Total under 15 years
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
(a) 1953-57	14	830	1,208	828	2,880
(b) 1952 or earlier	-	-	390	1,008	1,398
(c) Estimated mid-year child population	298	1,254	1,632 3,202	1,570	4,754
Immunity Index A/C x 100	4.7	66.2	63.6		60.3

During the year the following immunisations were carried out :-

<u>Primary</u>	326
<u>Booster</u>	396

There has been little change in the immune state of children which is well below the optimum level of safety of 75%. A great deal of effort is made by the nurses to persuade mothers to bring their children soon after birth but years of freedom from disease has produced apathy.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

A total of 176 primary vaccinations and 61 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year

TUBERCULOSIS

The total number of cases on the register at the 31st December, 1956 was as follows :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Male	77	10
Female	54	18
Total	131	28

The table given below shows on the age and sex distribution of new cases and of deaths during 1957 :-

Age Group	New Cases						Deaths					
	Respiratory		Meninges		Other		Respiratory		Meninges		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-4	1	0	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-44	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45-64	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 64	1	0	-	0	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1
Unknown	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	4	-	0	-	2	1	1	0	0	-	1

In addition to the above, movements in and out of the district were as follows :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Transfers in	3	5	0	-
Transfers out	4	1	-	-
Recoveries	4	4	1	1

The preventive measures taken to limit the spread of infection include the examination of all close contacts of cases, mass radiography in limited areas, and the special testing and vaccination of school children in their 14th year.

307 school children in the age group 13-14 years were eligible for test and of these 277 were Mantoux tested and 88.8% proved to have had no previous contact with tuberculous infection. 277 children were given B.C.G. vaccination.

256 school children were X-rayed and 3 were found to have evidence of old infection. There was no active disease. One child was found to have some slight abnormality but there was no evidence of disease.

A small survey of the general population by the Mass Radiography Unit was held at St. Blazey in November. 188 people were examined and disease was found as follows :-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

(1) No action required 1

(2) Previously known case 1

Other Conditions

(1) Silicosis 1

(2) Bronchiectasis 1

(3) Others 4

In addition to the above a survey in a works in the Par area revealed the following facts :-

Number examined 49

A. Pulmonary Tuberculosis

New cases requiring observation 2

No action necessary 1

Previously known 1

B. Other Conditions

Silicosis (all previously known) 9

The examination of school entrants was continued and 101 children were tested. No positive reactors were found and this encourages one in the belief that case finding is satisfactory.

113 contacts of known cases of tuberculosis were given B.C.G. vaccination as a protective measure.

All cases of tuberculosis are supervised & they and their contacts are advised on methods of limiting spread & maintaining health. Special consideration is given to rehousing patients where overcrowding exists.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS

Inspections for purposes of provisions
as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. in Register.	Inspections	Written Notices	Occup. pros.
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be rein- forced by Local Authorities	33	25	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	184	104	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	85	6	-	-
Total	302	135	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	No. of cases in which pro- secution was instituted.
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not for separate sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Austell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Joyce and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twentieth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

The year under review continued to be one of steady activity. The total number of visits i.e. 6,101 is again an increase on the previous years record. These visits principally made in carrying out statutory public health duties under the Housing Acts, Public Health Acts and the Food and Drugs Acts.

The principal items of the Report are set out in classified order as follows :-

1. HOUSING

Housing has continued to occupy a considerable amount of time and details of action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts are appended in Table 4 at the end of this Report.

The new Housing Act 1957 which came into operation on the 1st September 1957, repeals and re-enacts in consolidated form the provisions of the earlier Housing Acts.

Slum Clearance

During the year the Minister of Housing and Local Government intimated that no objections had been received to the undermentioned Clearance Orders made by the Council and after an inspection from the Minister's Inspector they were confirmed :-

Tywardreath Ward Clearance Order No. 63
Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7, St. Andrews Road, Par.

St. Blazey Ward Clearance Order No. 64 ...
Nos. 29,31, 33, 35, 37, 39 & 41 Doubletrees, St. Blazey.

Mevagissey Ward Clearance Order No. 66 ...
Nos. 34, 34, 36, 38, 38, 38, 40, 42, 42, 42, 44, 46, 46, & 48,
Church Street and No. 1, Chapel Square, Mevagissey.

East Central Ward Clearance Order No. 67 ...
Nos. 16, 18, 20, 22, & 24, Polkyth Road, St. Austell.

West Central Ward Clearance Order No.68 ...

Nos. 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 56 & 60, East Hill, St.Austell.

- With regard to Mevagissey Clearance Order No. 65, Nos.4, 6, 8, 10, 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d, 12e, Tregoney Hill, Mevagissey the Minister intimated that as there were 10 tenements and these were situated in a single building he was not prepared to entertain procedure by way of Clearance Order but advised the Council to proceed under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

In July I attended a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Public Inquiry to consider objections received to the West Ward Clearance Order No. 69, Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11, West Hill and Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9, Burton Place, St. Austell and as a result of this Inquiry the Minister confirmed the Order with modifications.

Continuing the Clum Clearance drive the Council recommended that a further 42 sub-standard houses be reviewed and inspected - this constituting the Council's Third-Year Programme.

The much-awaited Rent Act came into force on the 6th July, 1957 and before the end of the year 5 applications had been received for 'Certificates of Disrepair'.

2. MEAT INSPECTION

A considerable amount of your Inspectors time has been devoted to this most important aspect of public health work and in order to maintain 100% inspection of all carcasses slaughtered it has been found necessary to work during evenings of each week and every Sunday throughout the year. It is hoped that the new Slaughterhouses Act will come into force in the near future and the question of hours-of-slaughtering be considered.

1315 visits were made to the private slaughterhouses in the area and the following carcasses and offal were inspected :-

BOVINE

2,131

(a)	Steers	1,360
(b)	Heifers	563
(c)	Cows	144
(d)	Calves	63
(e)	Bulls	1

SHEEP

4,766

PIGS

13,972

TOTAL 20,869

The total number of animal carcasses slaughtered shows an increase of 45.6% over the number slaughtered last year.

The following table shows the comparison between 1955, 1956 and 1957.

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
<u>BOVINE</u>	2131	1909	1687
(a) Steers	1360	1273	886
(b) Heifers	563	450	488
(c) Cows	144	140	245
(d) Calves	63	46	62
(e) Bulls	1	-	6
<u>SHEEP</u>	4766	5047	2503
<u>PIGS</u>	13972	7377	2470
<u>GOATS</u>	-	-	1
	<u>20,869</u>	<u>14,333</u>	<u>6,661</u>

As a result of these inspections the following meat was condemned :-

REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

	B O V I N E							P I G S				S H E E P				S O W	E W E
	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Pt. Livers	Livers	Kidneys	Carcases	Plucks	Heads	Livers	Carcase	Livers	Lungs	Heads	Heads	Carcase
Fatty Degeneration											3						
Pneumonia									20				2				
Erysipilis								1									
Cirrhosis					38	25			1		4		2				
Pseudo-Leukaemia								1									
Abscesses						11			4	2	1						
Dropsy & Emaciation												8					1
Extensive Bruises	1											1					
Tuberculosis	2	12	32	1			2			108						2	
Distomatosis					82	11											
Actinomycosis	3																
Cavernous Angioma						9											
Necrosis											2						
Died in Transit								3									
Inflammation								1									
Fatty Infiltration													1				

3. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS

There were 38 licenced slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

4. OTHER FOODS

Premises

1,138 inspections and visits were made to food premises in the area throughout the year and a considerable improvement in food hygiene has been noted. The enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations has resulted in a general tidying up of premises and under these improved conditions it is noticeable that staff now seem most anxious to maintain a higher standard of hygiene. Several premises have been reconstructed throughout and all the latest equipment installed, while the majority of food shops have now been supplied with refrigerated cabinets and display counters.

Foodstuffs

Numerous visits were paid to food wholesale and retail premises during 1957 and as a result of these visits the following items of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :-

1347 Tins of Fruit	Blown & leaking
662 Tins of Meat	Decomposed
562 Tins of Vegetables	Blown and damaged
10 Tins of Soup	Blown & leaking
130 Tins of Milk	Blown & leaking
40 Jars of Jam	Mouldy
2 Tins of Syrup	Decomposed
55 lbs of Cheese	Mouldy
126 Tins of Fish	Decomposed
276 Packets of Fish	Decomposed
52 $\frac{1}{2}$ Stone of Fish	Decomposed
63 Tins of Sausages	Blown & damaged
11 Jars of Pickles	Broken & leaking
29 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of Gammon Ham	Decomposed
472 lbs of Bacon	Decomposed
7 Whole Ducks	Decomposed
2 Tins of Coffee	Wet & Moulded
10 Bags of Chestnuts	Decomposed
22 Packets of Cornflakes	Wet & moulded
3 Bags of Flour	Wet & Mouldy
7 Tins of Shrimps	Decomposition
1220 lbs of Vegetables	Rotten
15 Tins of Cream	Blown & leaking
47 Pairs of Kippers	Advanced Decomposition

Fish Inspection

During the year 3,267 quarter-casks of Pickled Pilchards were exported from Mevagissey to Genoa. In addition 3,930 lbs of crayfish, 2,635 lbs of crabs and 2,561 lbs of lobsters were exported to France.

5. MILK

During the year 57 visits were made to the distributors and dairymans' premises throughout the district.

There are now 20 retailers selling Tuberculin Tested milk, and 23 selling Pasteurised milk, the sale of raw undesignated milk now being prohibited.

Routine sampling was maintained & all samples subjected to the appropriate tests at the County Pathological Department, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. The results of these samples show that of the 41 samples collected, 39 passed the tests and 2 failed.

As result of complaints received of the dirty condition of a dairyman's milk bottles, 6 were sent for examination and the report shows that 5 were satisfactory and 1 was poor. The dairyman was interviewed and his bottling and sterilising plant thoroughly overhauled.

6. ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS

A total of 36 samples of ice-cream were collected during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro for bacteriological examination. The results of these tests were as follows :-

Provisional Grade I	22 samples
Provisional Grade II	12 samples
Provisional Grade III	2 samples
Provisional Grade IV	0 samples

Table for comparison with previous years.

	<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II</u>	<u>Grade III</u>	<u>Grade IV</u>
1955	63.8%	25.5%	6.3%	4.2%
1956	91.0%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1957	61.2%	33.3%	5.5%	0.0%

During the year 4 premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream making a total of 142 registered premises within the Urban District.

7. CAMPING SITES

There are 8 licenced camping sites in the area all of which are under constant supervision especially during the holiday season. 5 licences were issued for owners to station caravans in private sites.

8. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

The destruction of rats and mice has continued during the year but it is very noticeable that the rat population has been considerably reduced over the past few years. Survey work is still being carried out and complaints are dealt with as they are received. Thus a total of 731 visits were made by your operator as follows:-

178 visits to business premises
500 visits to private premises
48 visits to Local Authorities' premises
5 visits to farm premises

9. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

During 1957 a total of 73 samples of water were collected and submitted to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro for bacteriological examination.

The following table shows the location and results of the samples taken :-

Pipe, Lansalson	3 samples	3 satisfactory	
Lansalson Cottage Ruddlemocr	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
Lansalson Farm, Ruddlemoor	1 sample		1 contaminated
Public Pump London Apprentice	10 samples	7 satisfactory	3 contaminated
Kellys, London Apprentice	7 samples	3 satisfactory	4 contaminated
Stream, London Apprentice	7 samples	0 satisfactory	7 contaminated
Leas Cottage, London Apprentice	4 samples	2 satisfactory	2 contaminated
Blue Cottage, London Apprentice	2 samples	2 satisfactory	
Miss.Chapells,London Apprentice	1 sample		1 contaminated
Rosevears, London Apprentice	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
Littlejohns, London Apprentice	4 samples	3 satisfactory	1 contaminated
Grose, Crinnis	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
Hammermill, Par	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
Sweets, Polgooth	2 samples	1 satisfactory	1 contaminated
Menacuddle Farm	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
86, Bodmin Road, St. Austell.	3 samples		3 contaminated
Hawke, Lansalson	1 sample		1 contaminated
Waller, 12, Chapel Street,			
Mevagissey	1 sample		1 contaminated
Mitchell, Chapel Point	2 samples	1 satisfactory	1 contaminated
Ashford, Chapel Point	1 sample	1 satisfactory	

Boards, Chapel Point	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
County Sec. School, St.Austell	2 samples	2 satisfactory	
Gate House, Portmellon	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
Mazurk, Portmellon	1 sample		1 poor
Highfields, London Apprentice	2 samples	1 satisfactory	1 borderline
'Moorlea', London Apprentice	4 samples		4 contaminated
Craigmore, London Apprentice	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
94, Gover Road, St.Austell.	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
Penhedra Farm, Carluddon	2 samples	1 satisfactory	1 poor
Shilton Farm, Stenalees	1 sample		1 contaminated
Lampetho Farm, Par	1 sample	1 satisfactory	
Lavrean Farm, Bugle	1 sample		1 contaminated
Spring, Carbis Moor	1 sample		1 contaminated
59, Polkirt Hill, Nevagissey	1 sample		1 borderline
Webbs, London Apprentice	4 samples	3 satisfactory	1 borderline

Where samples were contaminated the users were notified and advised to boil the water before drinking while steps were taken, where possible, to carry out works to prevent a recurrence of contamination.

10. PAR AND ST. BLAZEY SEWERAGE SCHEME

During 1957 the Par & St. Blazey Sewerage Scheme was completed and the tracing and locating of all private drains of property affected by the new sewer has occupied a considerable amount of your Inspector's time.

When the scheme was completed 238 properties had been connected to the new sewer, 230 reconnections carried out by the Contractors and 8 new connections carried out at the expense of the owners of the property concerned.

11. STAFF

The staff of Inspectors during the year consisted of myself, Mr.L.H.Sturtridge, Mr.J.T.Rostern and Pupil/assistants Mr.W.G.Carveth and Mr.J.Crowle. During the year Mr. Carveth left to take up an appointment with the Civil Service.

12. CONCLUSION

I now would take the opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their help & support given during the year, & also to Dr.Turner for his invaluable help & co-operation at all times. Also I would thank Mr. Saunders, Mr. King, my colleague Mr. Sturtridge, & all members of the staff for their loyal co-operation & support.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

C. H. WATTS

Municipal Offices,
Truro Road,
St. Austell.

Senior Public Health Inspector

TABLE NO. 1.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Water Supply Visits	68	104	140
Drainage Visits	399	654	983
Stables and Piggeries	31	6	26
Fried Fish Shops		6	8
Tents, Vans and sheds	154	134	126
Factories and Workshops	154	129	129
Theatres and places of entertainment	31	48	40
Licenced premises		13	14
Refuse Disposal	46	15	26
Rats and Mice destruction	118	114	96
Atmospheric Pollution	19	14	2
School Inspections	1	10	5
Shops Act	35	36	40
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	124	192	78
Appointments and Interviews		199	341
Visits under Petroleum Acts	43	50	84
Visits re. inspect pests		3	5
Public Health Act visits		328	445
Housing Act visits		1,019	900
Verminous premises	30	103	116
Infectious Diseases	18	14	35
Slaughterhouse visits	958	1,292	1,346
Visits to shops and stalls		8	16
Visits to food shops		782	810
Dairies and milk distributors	68	70	57
Ice cream premises	110	88	131
Visits to restaurants		60	102
	<u>2,407</u>	<u>5,391</u>	<u>6,101</u>

TABLE NO. 2.

VERBAL, INFORMAL AND STATUTORY NOTICES

The following table shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions dangerous and injurious to health :-

<u>Notices</u>	<u>No. Served</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Work done by Council in default</u>
Verbal	47	43	-
Informal	22	20	-
Statutory	6	5	-

TABLE NO. 3.

DRAINAGE, SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND MISCELLANEOUS

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
1. No. of houses & premises re-drained	21	78	122
2. Repairs or amendments to existing drains	21	124	24
3. Drains or gullies unstopped & cleaned	25	20	45
4. Length in yards stoneware drains laid	1,272	628	1,119
5. Manholes provided	46	59	71
6. New manhole covers	31	55	64
7. Intercepting traps fixed	9	10	7
8. New gulley traps fixed	47	41	57
9. Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	18	26	21
10. Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	0	2	5
11. Water tests applied	16	6	8
12. Smoke tests applied	13	20	11
13. Length in yards iron drains laid	14	78	54
14. New W.C. accommodation provided	17	36	37
15. New W.C. appartments provided	14	19	15
16. New W.C. pedestals provided	21	42	30
17. W.C.'s cleansed and repaired	10	11	14
18. New flushing cisterns provided	15	40	39
19. Flushing cisterns repaired	5	6	4
20. Baths provided	13	31	26
21. Lavatory basins provided	14	38	25
22. Sinks provided	20	42	46
23. New waste pipes provided	46	92	78
24. Existing waste-pipes trapped	0	2	22
25. Pail closets and/or middens abolished	5	7	6
26. Urinals provided	0	2	0
27. Septic tanks provided	10	6	9
28. Cesspools emptied	48	20	28

MISCELLANEOUS

1. New roofs provided	5	20	12
2. Chimney stacks repaired	35	31	35
3. Roofs repaired	41	40	37
4. Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	51	63	60
5. Rainwater pipes disconnected or repaired	41	45	31
6. Damp walls remedied	93	59	79
7. Ventilation under floors provided	2	0	2
8. Yards paved	13	18	18
9. Yards repaired	10	10	20
10. Floors of rooms repaired	32	32	46
11. Floors of rooms relaid	13	24	32
12. Rooms cleansed and redecorated	79	74	119
13. New windows provided	29	48	43

TABLE No.3. (Contd)

<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
14. Windows repaired	40	24	51
15. Plaster of walls or ceiling repaired	113	200	172
16. Doors repaired or renewed	32	43	38
17. Ventilated food stores provided	6	20	23
18. Staircase provided or repaired	10	7	12
19. Water service pipes repaired	16	24	24
20. Dustbins provided	11	19	31
21. Nuisances - animals	25	7	2
22. Nuisances - refuse	24	4	3
23. Bakehouses cleansed	0	1	7
24. Cowsheds and dairies cleansed	0	1	3
25. Fish Fryers premises cleansed	0	0	4
26. Insufficient water supply remedied	7	22	23
27. Grates, ranges, copper renewed or repaired	31	31	50
28. Rooms disinfected	26	2	4
29. Rooms disinfested	45	42	20

TABLE NO. 4.

HOUSING

1. <u>Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health of Housing Acts)	588	225	200
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	759	953	1,345
2. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>			
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, & 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.			
(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	1	4	5
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice			
(a) By owners	1	3	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil	1	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts		Nil	1
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936 & Sections 16, 17 & 23 of the Housing Act 1957		7	6
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 & Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.			
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.		6	Nil

TABLE NO. 4.

HOUSING (contd)

3. <u>Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
(a) Number of dwellings statutorily overcrowded at the end of the year	29	25
Number of families dwelling therein	41	38
Number of persons dwelling therein	142	122
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2	5
(c) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6	9
(d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider to report		